

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A teleconference system for supporting realization of cooperative work among a plurality of conference systems, the teleconference system comprising:

site systems each being installed at a plurality of sites, each site systems being configured to operate ~~the corresponding~~ a respective conference system; ~~system;~~ and

a shared workspace server configured to connect the site systems to each other so as to allow users of the site systems to share a workspace, the workspace being a ~~for using~~ a task among the site systems and for sharing and editing files to enable the users to perform ~~cooperative work between the site systems, wherein the files are located in the shared workspace;~~ project directory, from a plurality of project directories storing project files, the project directories being stored in the shared workspace server, wherein

upon detecting that a first user at a first site system has selected a project directory and detecting that a second user at a second site system has selected the same project directory, the shared workspace server establishes, in response to the detecting, synchronization between the first and second site systems by connecting the first and second site systems.

~~an authenticator to control user access to the files in the shared workspace based on an access control list; and~~

~~a prioritizer to assign priority for displaying an initial workspace based on at least one of the following items of information:~~

(i) ~~network information of a server;~~

(ii) ~~position information of the server;~~

~~(iii) — information regarding a name of the shared workspace, file name and URL received from the server;~~

~~(iv) — a user's schedule information and current time;~~

~~(v) — company user name information; and~~

~~(vi) — information indicating what shared workspaces were used in the past.~~

2. (Original) The teleconference system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the shared workspace server is further configured to manage a session for managing connection of the site systems, a file used in a conference and created as a record of the conference, reference information to a resource relevant to the conference, and history information of file access made by conference participants.

3. (Currently Amended) The teleconference system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the shared workspace server is further configured to provide a user interface for connecting a session and making reference to a file ~~and/or or~~ a resource.

4. (Currently Amended) The teleconference system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the shared workspace server is further configured to instruct, when a client starts a session, all other clients already ~~starting~~ having started the session to connect to the client.

5. (Original) The teleconference system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the site system comprises:

an electronic whiteboard configured to provide a graphical user interface provided by a shared workspace;

a video and audio server configured to code and decode video and audio and to transmit and receive video and audio to and from any other site system for sharing motion and behavior of participants at the sites;

an authentication unit configured to authenticate identification of the participants; and

a site server configured to manage a session in the site systems, a file used in a conference and created as a record of the conference, reference information to a resource relevant to the conference, and history information of file access made by the participants.

6. (Original) The teleconference system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the shared workspace server is further configured to select a workspace based on user identification information transmitted from the site system.

7. (Original) The teleconference system as claimed in claim 6, wherein the shared workspace server is further configured to select the workspace based on the user identification information transmitted using an IC card by the site system.

8. (Original) The teleconference system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the shared workspace server is further configured to select a workspace based on workspace specification information transmitted from the site system.

9. (Original) The teleconference system as claimed in claim 8, wherein the shared workspace server is further configured to select the workspace based on workspace specification information transmitted by the site system based on information retained on an IC card.

10. (Previously Presented) The teleconference system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the shared workspace server is further configured to respond to a file reference request received from the site system, to start application software to reference the file specified in the file reference request, and to provide an input/output interface with the application software for each site system with a session established.

11. (Previously Presented) The teleconference system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the shared workspace server is further configured to, in a case where the file

specified in the file reference request is not previously registered in the workspace, temporarily register the file specified in the file reference request.

12. (Previously Presented) The teleconference system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the site system is configured to start application software to reference the file specified in a file reference request, and to provide an input/output interface with the application software for any other site system with a session established.

13. (Previously Presented) The teleconference system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the site system is further configured to receive the file specified in a file reference request from any other site system, to start application software to reference the file specified in the file reference request, and to provide an input/output interface with the application software for any other site system with a session established.

14. (Currently Amended) A teleconference support method for supporting realization of cooperative work among a plurality of conference systems, the method comprising:

providing at least one workspace to be shared by one or more conference ~~systems;~~ systems, the workspace being a project directory, from a plurality of project directories storing project files, the project directories being stored in a shared workspace server;

opening at least one workspace of the at least one workspace in response to workspace selection of a user;

adding the at least one opened workspace to an active workspace;

managing use of the at least one opened ~~workspace;~~ workspace, and;

upon detecting that a first user at a first site system has selected a project directory and detecting that a second user at a second site system has selected the same project directory, establishing, by the shared workspace server in response to the detecting,

synchronization between the first and second site systems by connecting the first and second site systems.

~~allowing users of the conference systems to share and to edit files to perform cooperative work between conference systems, wherein the files are located in the opened workspace;~~

~~authenticating user access of the files in the opened workspace based on an access control list; and~~

~~assigning priority for displaying an initial workspace based on at least one of the following items of information:~~

~~(i) — network information of a server;~~

~~(ii) — position information of the server;~~

~~(iii) — information regarding a name of the shared workspace, file name and URL received from the server;~~

~~(iv) — a user's schedule information and current time;~~

~~(v) — company user name information; and~~

~~(vi) — information indicating what shared workspaces were used in the past.~~

15. (Original) The teleconference support method as claimed in claim 14 further comprising providing a user interface for displaying workspace candidates required for the user to select a workspace.

16. (Currently Amended) The teleconference support method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the managing use of the workspace includes providing a user interface for making reference to a file ~~and/or~~ or a resource.

17. (Currently Amended) The teleconference support method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the managing use of the workspace includes registering reference to a file ~~and/or~~ or a resource.

18. (Original) The teleconference support method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the managing use of the workspace includes switching a workspace, starting a subworkspace, and terminating the workspace.

19. (Currently Amended) The teleconference support method as claimed in claim 18, wherein in the managing use of the workspace, the original workspace is deactivated in the switching of the workspace ~~and/or or~~ in the starting of the subworkspace.

20. (Currently Amended) The teleconference support method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the managing use of the workspace includes instructing, when a client starts a session, all other clients already ~~starting~~ having started the session to connect to the client.

21. (Previously Presented) The teleconference support method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the opening of the workspace includes selecting a workspace based on user identification information transmitted from the conference system where the user is.

22. (Previously Presented) The teleconference support method as claimed in claim 14 wherein the opening of the workspace includes selecting a workspace based on user identification information transmitted using an IC card by the conference system where the user is.

23. (Previously Presented) The teleconference support method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the opening the workspace includes selecting a workspace based on workspace specification information transmitted from the conference system where the user is.

24. (Previously Presented) The teleconference support method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the opening of the workspace includes selecting a workspace based on

workspace specification information transmitted by the conference system where the user is based on information retained on an IC card.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing a program causing a computer to execute processing for supporting realization of cooperative work among a plurality of conference systems in a computer system, the processing comprising:

providing at least one workspace to be shared by one or more conference ~~systems;~~ systems, the workspace being a project directory, from a plurality of project directories storing project files, the project directories being stored in a shared workspace server;

opening at least one workspace of the at least one workspace in response to workspace selection of a user;

adding the at least one opened workspace to an active workspace;

managing use of the at least one opened ~~workspace;~~ workspace; and

upon detecting that a first user at a first site system has selected a project directory and detecting that a second user at a second site system has selected the same project directory, establishing, by the shared workspace server in response to the detecting, synchronization between the first and second site systems by connecting the first and second site systems.

~~allowing users of the conference systems to share and to edit files to enable users to perform cooperative work between conference systems, wherein the files are located in the opened workspace;~~

~~authenticating user access of the files in the opened workspace based on an access control list; and~~

~~assigning priority for displaying an initial workspace based on at least one of the following items of information:~~

(i) ~~network information of a server;~~  
(ii) ~~position information of the server;~~  
(iii) ~~information regarding a name of the shared workspace, file name and URL received from the server;~~  
(iv) ~~a user's schedule information and current time;~~  
(v) ~~company user name information; and~~  
(vi) ~~information indicating what shared workspaces were used in the past.~~

26. (Canceled)

27. (New) The teleconference system as claimed in claim 1, wherein upon detecting that, after an initial user has logged into the site system, a subsequent user has logged into the site system, the site system displays project directories that are associated with both the initial and subsequent user.

28. (New) The teleconference system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the shared workspace server comprises a workspace manager that is configured to determine which users have access to access history information in accordance with an access control list.

29. (New) The teleconference system as claimed in claim 1, wherein each site system is configured to display, upon detecting that a user has logged into the site system, all of the project directories, which are stored in the shared workspace server, that the user is authorized to participate in.

30. (New) The teleconference system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the shared workspace server assigns priority to project directories based on information indicating which project directories were used in the past, and the teleconference system changes a combination of color, size, shape and position based on the priority.



31. (New) The teleconference system as claimed in claim 1, wherein each site system is configured to display a graph structure formed by a plurality of shared project directories, and to input a selection by the user of one of the shared project directories shown in the graph structure.

32. (New) The teleconference system as claimed in claim 1, wherein each site system comprises a metadata manager and a presentation controller, and each metadata manager is configured to use terminal information transmitted from the presentation controller and to record a terminal ID, a user ID and a use start time in association with each other.

33. (New) The teleconference system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the shared workspace server is configured to perform, upon detecting that both a first and second user have logged in to a same site server, a set operation on a first set of project directories associated with the first user and a second set of project directories associated with the second user.

34. (New) The teleconference system as claimed in claim 33, wherein the set operation is a product.

35. (New) The teleconference system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the site system is configured to create a list of all users who have held their respective IC cards over an IC card authentication section and to provide a button for distributing a same document to each of the users in the list.

36. (New) The teleconference system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a storage that stores files which have been shared and edited, to allow a user to access the files after the sharing and the editing are completed.

37. (New) The teleconference system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an authenticator to control user access to the project files in the shared workspace based on an access control list.

38. (New) The teleconference system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the teleconference system assigns priority for displaying an initial workspace based on at least one of the following items of information:

- (i) network information of a server;
- (ii) position information of the server;
- (iii) information regarding a name of the shared workspace, file name and URL received from the server;
- (iv) a user's schedule information and current time;
- (v) company user name information; and
- (vi) information indicating what shared workspaces were used in the past.

39. (New) The teleconference support method as claimed in claim 14, further comprising authenticating user access of the project files in the opened workspace based on an access control list.

40. (New) The teleconference support method as claimed in claim 14, further comprising assigning priority for displaying an initial workspace based on at least one of the following items of information:

- (i) network information of a server;
- (ii) position information of the server;
- (iii) information regarding a name of the shared workspace, file name and URL received from the server;
- (iv) a user's schedule information and current time;

- (v) company user name information; and
- (vi) information indicating what shared workspaces were used in

the past.

41. (New) The computer readable medium according to claim 25, the processing further comprising authenticating user access of the project files in the opened workspace based on an access control list.

42. (New) The computer readable medium as claimed in claim 25, the processing further comprising assigning priority for displaying an initial workspace based on at least one of the following items of information:

- (i) network information of a server;
- (ii) position information of the server;
- (iii) information regarding a name of the shared workspace, file

name and URL received from the server;

- (iv) a user's schedule information and current time;
- (v) company user name information; and
- (vi) information indicating what shared workspaces were used in

the past.

43. (New) A teleconference system for supporting realization of cooperative work among a plurality of conference systems, the teleconference system comprising:

site systems each being installed at a plurality of sites, each site systems being configured to operate a respective conference system; and

a shared workspace server configured to connect the site systems to each other so as to allow users of the site systems to share a workspace, the workspace being a project directory, from a plurality of project directories storing project files, the project directories being stored in the shared workspace server, wherein

upon detecting that a first user at a first site system has selected a project directory and detecting that a second user at a second site system has selected the same project directory, the shared workspace server establishes, in response to the detecting, synchronization between the first and second site systems by connecting the first and second site systems, and

the teleconference system changes a combination of color, size, shape and position of the project directories based on a priority, the priority being based on information indicating which project directories were used in the past.